

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 /059 W
-----119828 112057Z /61

P R 111715Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4334
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINT PO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) LISBON 0166 (DTG 091307Z JAN 78), (B) LISBON 0213
(DTG 101747Z JAN 78)

SUMMARY: MARIO SOARES WILL MEET WITH CDS LEADER FREITAS DO
AMARAL JAN 12 FOR WHAT CDS LEADER BASILIO HORTA DESCRIBES
AS ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL MEETINGS TO DATE. INTERIM PSD
PRESIDENT SOUSA FRANCO FORMALLY ANNOUNCED JAN 10 THAT THE
PSD WILL REMAIN IN THE OPPOSITION RATHER THAN JOIN A PS/CDS
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GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. STILL TALKING: THE PS NEGOTIATING TEAM,
ACCOMPANIED BY VITOR CONSTANCIO (VICE-GOVERNOR OF THE BANK
OF PORTUGAL AND PRESIDENT OF THE GOP COMMISSION ON EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION) AND THE CDS TEAM OF AMARO DE COSTA, BASILIO
HORTA, AND TWO CDS ECONOMISTS MET LATE JAN 9 AND AGAIN JAN 10.

INTERIM PSD PRESIDENT SOUSA FRANCO MET AT HIS REQUEST WITH PRESIDENT EANES THE SAME DAY. SOARES HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS TO EANES JAN 10 OR 11. SOARES IS DOWN WITH THE FLU BUT PLANS A FINAL SESSION WITH CDS LEADER FREITAS DO AMARAL BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.

2. CDS OPTIMISTIC: THE PS/CDS SESSIONS INCLUDING PARTY ECONOMIC EXPERTS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS TO PURSUE THE NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED REFTEL ALL POINT TO A PS/CDS AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO HORTA, THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOCIALISTS HAVE GONE WELL. SOARES NEXT MEETING WITH FREITAS DO AMARAL MAY PRODUCE AGREEMENT. THE PRESIDENCY REMAINS OPTIMISTIC (REF B).

3. PCP AND PSD ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN: PCP LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL CONTINUES TO CHARACTERIZE PS/PCP TALKS AS "VERY DIFFICULT" WHILE NOTING THAT A PS/CDS AGREEMENT WILL UNDERMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PCP: "A GOVERNMENT OF THE RIGHT WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR PORTUGAL AND FOR THE PS." SOUSA FRANCO, MEANWHILE, ANNOUNCED AFTER HIS MEETING WITH EANES JAN 10 THAT THE PSD WILL OPPOSE ANY PS/CDS AGREEMENT: "IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE PS HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH OTHER PARTIES (READ CDS) WHICH GUARANTEES THE SOCIALISTS A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY ... AN AGREEMENT IN WHICH WE ARE NOT REPRESENTED."

4. COMMENT: SOARES'S FLU HAS SLOWED THE NEGOTIATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCESS, BUT HE WILL PROBABLY REPORT FORMALLY TO EANES BY THE WEEKEND IF NOT BEFORE.
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